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October 5, 2004

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – CHILDREN ARE  
OUR FUTURE, WEST HILLS, TOM BROWNING, HOWARD, LEGG,  
AND SATICOY HOMES**

We have completed a review of five Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Children Are Our Future, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

West Hills, Tom Browning, Howard, Legg, and Saticoy Group Homes are six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 12-17 years, who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, West Hills was providing services for three DCFS children and three Probation children. Tom Browning Group Home was providing services for four DCFS children and two Probation children. Howard Group Home was providing services for five DCFS children. Legg Group Home was providing services for five DCFS children and one Probation child. Saticoy Group Home was providing services for four DCFS children and two Probation children. Tom Browning is located in the Third District. West Hills, Howard, Legg, and Saticoy Group Homes are located in the Fifth District.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of each Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and

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interviews with two children placed in each Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. However, we did note areas where improvements are needed.

#### **West Hills**

West Hills Group Home needs to make a few repairs to its facility; provide a computer for the residents' use; maintain current court authorizations for psychotropic medications; and meet DCFS clothing standards for quantity.

#### **Tom Browning**

Tom Browning Group Home needs to make repairs to its facility; and meet DCFS clothing standards for quantity.

#### **Howard**

Howard Group Home needs to make repairs to the facility; develop Needs and Service Plans that are current and comprehensive; maintain documentation of residents' participation in the Needs and Services Plans; provide sufficient educational activity outside of school; and improve overall supervision of the residents.

#### **Legg**

Legg Group Home needs to make a few repairs to its facility; obtain age waivers for residents over 18 years old; maintain current Needs and Services Plans for each resident; and meet DCFS clothing standards for quantity.

#### **Saticoy**

Saticoy Group Home needs to make a few repairs to its facility; develop Needs and Service Plans that are current and comprehensive; maintain current court authorizations for psychotropic medications; and provide residents with life books.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children's' Group Home

Ombudsman within 15 business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our reviews.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:dl

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS  
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer  
Michael Linquata, Executive Director, Children Are Our Future  
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
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**Children Are Our Future  
West Hills House  
8569 Faust Avenue  
West Hills, CA 91304  
(818) 709-3808  
License No.: 191222605  
Rate Classification Level: 12**

**I. Facility and Environment**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

**Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

West Hills Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is located in a residential community. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor presents a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, there are a few areas that need improvement.

In the kitchen, the dishwasher is not working and one stove burner does not light.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. There are books and resource materials. However, there is not a computer for the residents' use.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

**Recommendations**

**1. Children Are Our Future Group Home management:**

- a. Repair the dishwasher.**
- b. Repair the kitchen stove.**
- c. Provide a computer for the residents' use.**

## **II. Program Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

#### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There was appropriate documentation to support the placement worker's participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly reports for residents are current, comprehensive, and appropriately focus on the goals of the NSPs.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, and emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving weekly individual and/or group therapy.

#### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

#### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Residents are attending school. Neither resident requires an Individualized Education Plan. Both records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports for the residents. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Residents have the opportunity to work and manage their own money.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for one case file**

### **Comments:**

The resident does not have a current court authorization for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that the resident is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication logs are properly maintained.

### **Recommendation**

- 2. Children Are Our Future Group Home management maintain current court authorizations for residents receiving psychotropic medications.**

### **VI. Personal Rights**

#### **Method of assessment – Resident interviews**

#### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their social workers, probation officers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

### **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

#### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

#### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality, but insufficient quantity to meet DCFS clothing standards. Neither resident has a pair of slippers as required.

The Agency provides its residents with at least the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. The residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage space.

Both residents have life books.

**Recommendation**

- 3. Children Are Our Future Group Home management provide each child with a pair of slippers to meet DCFS' clothing standards for quantity.**



**Children Are Our Future  
Tom Browning House  
19252 Ballinger Street  
Northridge, CA 91324  
(818) 709-3808  
License No.: 197600081  
Rate Classification Level: 12**

**I. Facility and Environment**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

**Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

Tom Browning Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is located in a residential community and blends well with other homes on the block. However, the fence surrounding the pool is broken, the walkway across the front of the house has been partially removed, and the walkway leading from the side gate to the street is cracked and uneven. These issues present safety hazards.

The veneer on one of the main double entry doors to the house is peeling and several exterior light fixtures in the backyard do not have light bulbs or lenses.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor presents a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, there are a few areas that need improvement.

In the small bathroom, the floor tiles are torn and cracked. In the larger bathroom, two drawers of the vanity are missing. In bathroom number three, three light bulbs are missing and the bathtub and toilet bowl are dirty and stained.

In bedroom number one, a vertical slat is missing from the window covering. In bedroom number three, the headboard is loosely attached to the bed frame.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. However, the backboard of the basketball goal is broken. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR. There are books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

## **Recommendations**

### **1. Children Are Our Future Group Home management:**

- a. Repair the pool fence
- b. Repair the walkways around the outside of the house.
- c. Repair/replace the peeling entry door.
- d. Repair the exterior lighting fixtures.
- e. Repair the flooring in the smaller bathroom.
- f. Replace the vanity drawers in the larger bathroom.
- g. Replace the missing light bulbs in bathroom number three.
- h. Clean the tub and toilet bowl in bathroom number three.
- i. Replace the missing vertical slat on the window covering in bedroom number one.
- j. Secure the loose headboard in bedroom number three.
- k. Repair/replace the broken basketball backboard.

## **II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There was appropriate documentation to support the placement worker's participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly reports for residents are current, comprehensive, and appropriately focus on the goals of the NSPs.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, and emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving weekly individual and/or group therapy.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

One resident attends school and the other child is awaiting school district approval for school placement. One resident requires and has a current Individualized Education Plan. Both records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports for the residents. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Residents have the opportunity to work and manage their own money.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for two case files**

**Comments:**

The residents prescribed psychotropic medications have current court authorizations. Documentation confirms that the children were routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VI. Personal Rights**

**Method of assessment – Resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their social workers, probation officers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

#### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality, but insufficient quantity to meet DCFS clothing standards. One resident is in need of additional shirts and socks, a pair of slippers, and a jacket. The other resident is in need of additional pants and shirts, a bathrobe, a sweater/sweatshirt, and additional undergarments.

The Agency provides its residents with at least the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage space.

Both residents have life books.

**Recommendation**

2. Children Are Our Future Group Home management provide each child with sufficient clothes to meet DCFS' clothing standards for quantity.

**Children Are Our Future  
Howard House  
669 West Calaveras Street  
Altadena, CA 91001  
(818) 709-3808  
License No.: 191221569  
Rate Classification Level: 12**

**I. Facility and Environment**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

**Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Howard House Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is located in a residential community and blends well with other homes on the block. However, the trim paint, especially around the windows, is chipped and peeling and the front screen door is bent.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor presents a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, there are a few areas that need improvement.

Portions of the hallway and TV room carpeting are worn, frayed and loose. The sliding doors to the bedrooms are worn, and difficult to open and close. The walls in the kitchen are marked and have unfinished patch areas. In the game room, the couch has a tear on one arm and the walls have puncture holes. In bedroom number one, a dresser drawer is broken.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are encyclopedias, age appropriate reading materials, a computer, a TV, and a DVD player.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

## **Recommendations**

### **1. Children Are Our Future Group Home management:**

- a. Refinish the chipped and peeling trim on the exterior of the home.
- b. Repair the front screen door.
- c. Repair the hallway and TV room carpeting.
- d. Repair the sliding bedroom doors.
- e. Repaint the kitchen walls.
- f. Repair the upholstery on the game room couch.
- g. Repair the damaged wall in the game room.
- h. Repair the dresser drawer in bedroom number one.

## **II. Program Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received an initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the program.

One resident's Needs and Services Plan (NSP) is current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. However, the other resident's NSP did not reflect the child's progress. The current NSP was identical to the child's previous NSP, with the exception of the dates of the plans. This was discussed with the Agency's administration who stated that the issue will be corrected.

The children confirm that the NSPs are reviewed with them by the therapist and there was documentation to support the placement worker's participation in the development or update of the NSPs. However, there was no documentation to support the residents' participation.



One resident has a current quarterly report that is comprehensive, timely, and focused on the goals in the NSP. The other resident has not been in the Group Home long enough to require a quarterly report.

The residents receive regular individual and group therapy.

### **Recommendations**

#### **2. Children Are Our Future Group Home management:**

- a. Ensure Needs and Services Plans reflect each resident's progress.**
- b. Provide documentation to show that residents participate in the development and update of their Needs and Services Plans.**

### **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

#### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

#### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Residents are attending school. There are current Individualized Educational Plans for both residents. Both records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports for the residents. One resident reported that he is provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feels that the Group Home is supportive of his academic progress. The other resident reported that a study hour is no longer part of the program (this was verified by a staff member) and that there is not enough educational activity away from school.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Residents have the opportunity to work and manage their own money.

### **Recommendation**

- 3. Children Are Our Future Group Home management provide residents with a sufficient amount of daily educational activity outside of school in accordance with the Statement of Work.**

#### **IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for one case file**

**Comments:**

The resident has a current court authorization for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that the resident is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **VI. Personal Rights**

**Method of assessment – Resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The residents were presented with the policies, rules and regulations when arriving in placement. Residents reported that the rules are generally fair, as are the consequences for not following them. However, one resident did not feel the rules are always enforced. He was dissatisfied with the Group Home and felt that his property was not safe. He reported that the children come in and out of his room and “mess” with his stuff. He felt that the children do not respond to staff direction. This was discussed with the Agency’s administration who indicated that the situation may be an issue of inappropriate supervision since there had been a recent change in the Group Home staff.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that with the exception of the issues mentioned above, there is generally sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their social workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

**Recommendation**

- 4. Children Are Our Future Group Home management monitor staff supervision and ensure that residents’ belongings are safe and secure.**

**VII. Clothing and Allowance**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are provided with an opportunity to maintain photo albums/life books.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**Children Are Our Future  
Legg House  
19110 Merion Drive  
Northridge, CA 91326  
(818) 709-3808  
License No.: 197600298  
Rate Classification Level: 12**

**I. Facility and Environment**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

**Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Legg House Group Home (Group Home or Agency) overlooks a golf course and blends well with other homes on the block. The exterior of the property is well maintained.

The interior of the Group Home is in the process of being recarpeted and repainted but is otherwise generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and well maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, there are two areas in need of improvement.

The trash can in the kitchen needs a tight fitting lid and the light switch in bedroom two does not work properly.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR. There are books and resource materials. However, there is not a computer for the residents' use.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

**Recommendations**

**1. Children Are Our Future Group Home management:**

- a. Provide a tight fitting lid for the kitchen trash can.**
- b. Repair the light switch in bedroom number two.**
- c. Provide a computer for the residents' use.**

## **II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Generally, the residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. However, an 18 year-old resident does not have an approved Community Care Licensing age waiver, nor has the Agency completed the request for the waiver as required for residents 18 years and older. The residents received an initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the program.

One resident's Needs and Services Plan (NSP) is current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. The resident and his placement worker participate in developing and updating the NSP. However, the other resident's NSP did not reflect the child's progress. The current NSP is not current, realistic, measurable, or time specific.

The quarterly report for one resident is current and comprehensive, and appropriately focuses on the goals of the NSP. The quarterly report for the other resident is not comprehensive as it does not address goals that should be stated in a current NSP.

The residents receive regular individual and group therapy.

### **Recommendations**

#### **2. Children Are Our Future Group Home management:**

- a. Submit age waiver requests to Community Care Licensing for all 18 year old residents.**
- b. Complete current Needs and Services Plans for each resident.**
- c. Develop comprehensive quarterly reports that address the goals stated in the residents' Needs and Services Plans.**

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Residents are attending school. There are current Individualized Educational Plans for both residents who require Special Education services. Both records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports for the residents. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Residents have the opportunity to work and manage their own money.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **V. Psychotropic Medication**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for four case files**

#### **Comments:**

The residents prescribed psychotropic medications have current court authorizations. Documentation confirms that the children were routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

#### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VI. Personal Rights**

### **Method of assessment – Resident interviews**

#### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their social workers, probation officers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.



## **Recommendations**

There are no recommendations for this section.

### **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Agency provides appropriate allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality, but insufficient quantity. One resident is in need of additional shirts and pants, a pair of slippers, a sweater/sweatshirt, and pajamas. The other resident needs additional shirts, pants, and undershirts, a bathrobe, a sweater/sweatshirt, a jacket, a pair of slippers, and a pair of shoes.

The Agency provides its residents with at least the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. The residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage space.

Both residents have life books.

#### **Recommendation**

- 3. Children Are Our Future Group Home management provide each child with sufficient clothes to meet DCFS' clothing standards for quantity.**

**Children Are Our Future  
Saticoy House  
17622 Lemarsh Avenue  
Northridge, CA 91325  
(818) 708-3808  
License No.: 197605332  
Rate Classification Level: 12**

**I. Facility and Environment**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

**Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Saticoy House Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is located in a residential community and blends well with other homes on the block. The exterior of the property is well maintained.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, there are two areas in need of improvement.

The window coverings in the living room are missing and the lights in bedroom number two are not working.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are encyclopedias, age appropriate reading materials, cable TV, a DVD player, and electronic games. However, the computer is not working.

There was a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

**Recommendations**

**1. Children Are Our Future Group Home management:**

- a. Provide window coverings on the living room windows.**
- b. Repair the lights in bedroom number two.**

**c. Repair/replace the residents' computer.**

**II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received an initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

One resident's Needs and Services Plan (NSP) is current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. However, the other resident's NSP did not reflect the child's progress. The current NSP was identical to the child's previous NSP, with the exception of the dates of the plans. This was discussed with the Agency's administration who stated that the issue will be corrected. Both residents and their placement workers participate in developing the NSPs.

One resident has a current quarterly report that is comprehensive, timely, and focused on the goals in the NSP. The other resident has not been in the Group Home long enough to require a quarterly report.

The residents receive regular individual and group therapy.

**Recommendation**

- 2. Children Are Our Future Group Home management ensure Needs and Services Plans reflect each resident's progress.**

**III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Residents are attending school. There are current Individualized Educational Plans for both residents who require Special Education services. Both records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports for the residents. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Residents have the opportunity to work and manage their own money.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for three case files**

### **Comments:**

Two residents have current court authorizations for psychotropic medications or the authorizations have been submitted for approval. However, one resident does not have a current court authorization for one of the psychotropic medications he is receiving. We noted the Agency is in the process of repairing the request for authorization.

Documentation confirms that the residents are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication logs are properly maintained.

### **Recommendation**

- 3. Children Are Our Future Group Home management maintain current court authorizations for residents receiving psychotropic medications.**

## **VI. Personal Rights**

### **Method of assessment – Resident interviews**

#### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their social workers, probation officers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that they are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

One resident has been offered a life book. The other resident reported that he was never offered or encouraged to maintain a life book. This was discussed with the Agency's administration who stated that they provide each child with a life book.

### **Recommendation**

- 4. Children Are Our Future Group Home management ensure that each resident is offered and encouraged to maintain a life book.**